

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



FOUNDED 1836

W A S H I N G T O N, D.C.

AN
ADDRESS,
DELIVERED AT THE
COMMENCEMENT OF THE LECTURES,
IN THE
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS
IN THE
CITY OF NEW-YORK.

By NICHOLAS ROMAYNE, M. D.
*PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE, FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE
OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH, LICENTIATE OF THE ROYAL
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON, &c.*



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J.W. Francis
from Dr J. Aug. Smith

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on the —————
by Dr. D. C. C.
at the College of Physicians and Surgeons

GENTLEMEN,

THE Regents of the University of this state, in their paternal solicitude for the advancement of science, have deemed it expedient to establish this College of Physicians and Surgeons. The immediate care of the institution is entrusted to professional gentlemen, many of whom have been distinguished for a love of knowledge, and an ardent zeal for its promotion.

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The great advantages arising to society, from well regulated public seminaries of learning, have always been apparent to the venerable sages and illustrious legislators of ancient and modern times. Schools for education are nearly coeval with the dawnings of science. Our European ancestors, some time after the first emigrations to this American continent, founded literary institutions. Their descendants, with laudable zeal, have continued to promote them in proportion to the aggrandizement and population of the country; but the establishment of a college in the new world, for the sole purpose of promoting medical education, was first directed by a law of this state, upon an application of the Regents of the University to the legislature, for that purpose.

This institution, having been organized with as much care and attention as circumstances would permit, the different professors and teachers have been directed to commence, at this time, their several courses of instruction. On this interesting

occasion, when the usefulness and importance of this establishment are about to be unfolded to the public, it is made my duty to address this assembly.

The extraordinary and eventful changes which have been effected in the human character, by the improvement of knowledge, and rational enquiries into the works and operations of nature, cannot fail to awaken a train of reflections in the mind, connected with the nature of man and literary institutions.

From reason and experience it is sufficiently manifest, that in all the varieties of the human species, however diversified in their relative situations on this globe, there are implanted by the hand of the Creator, certain propensities or wants, which impel man to action both of body and mind. In a state of nature, he is compelled to provide for himself food and clothing ; in the colder latitudes he resorts to fishing and hunting ; in the tropical regions he is more easily supplied by the bounties of nature

from vegetable bodies. When sheltered from the inclemencies of the weather, and furnished with food and raiment, his inventive genius begins gradually to display itself, until, by contemplation and study, he arrives at that degree of excellence to which he is exalted in highly civilised and polished life.

A luminous and striking picture of primitive ages, must have been exhibited among the Indian nations who inhabited the countries which form these United States. In this state, the five confederated Indian nations were a warlike people, having no established authority, but such as was acquired by approved bravery in war or eloquence in council. To such superior merit obedience was yielded; but the sachems or chiefs were mere advisers or counsellors, without any coercive powers. Hereditary or elective government was to them equally unknown. They had no national tenets of religion; no established modes or public places of worship; no order of priests. Time was measured by the

revolutions of the earth, the phases of the moon, and the vicissitudes of the seasons.

If we contemplate farther the character of these original men, in their supposed state of nature, we find them averse to labour ; wanting in habits of industry ; devoting their attention to hunting and warfare, and possessing a studied indifference to the objects around them. Their chief glory consisted in fortitude and acts of heroism ; in bearing without murmur the pains of torture and the ills of life. They held in contempt the passion of fear ; were grave in their dispositions ; respectful to each other ; attached to their friends ; cruel and vindictive to their enemies.

Among these people were found faint traces of agriculture, arts, and science. They had paintings and signs, or marks, to convey some few events and simple ideas. Every menial office, at home or in the field, was performed by women. In the cure of diseases, they made use of scarifications, fomentations, sweating, cold bath-

ing, and the external and internal use of certain vegetable substances, which experience had taught them to be possessed of medicinal virtues. These were administered by women in their villages, or their leading men in their war excursions. In common with other savage people, they have on all occasions treated with particular respect, persons skilled in the healing art.

If we examine the character of the more northern American Indians, dwelling on the coast of Labrador, when they were first noticed by European observers, we find them a people in a state of stupid indifference, little removed from the brute creation. They lived in caverns, held little intercourse with each other, and were unacquainted with the element of fire, though they occupied one of the coldest climates of the earth.

In the more advanced state of society, we first see the unequal distribution of wealth and talents engaged in elevating genius to

the high rank which infinite wisdom directs ; and there, also, we first see it perverted to the purposes of vanity, interest, or ambition, prejudicing our understandings, and debasing our nature.

The state of society and manners among the original people, who inhabited the countries of this continent within the tropics, were different from those of the north. The abundant and rapid productions of animal and vegetable bodies, used as food by man, soon placed the inhabitants of Mexico and Peru in a state of ease and opulence, which led them to observation and study, and to the improvement of the arts, the establishment of cities, and the formation of empires.

The people of Mexico and Peru were not compelled, like their northern neighbours in these states, to the perpetual pursuit of means to support their existence, but were allowed leisure to indulge in speculations of the understanding, which were rude and imperfect ; and to view with adora-

tion those objects and characters which affected their imaginations as sublime and great. The Peruvians worshipped the sun, that great luminary, which by rude man is considered the god of this world, and the parent of great and virtuous men, which influences in a powerful manner this globe, and whose genial warmth is intimately connected with the production of animal and vegetable life. The Mexicans paid adoration to divinities, whose ferocious vengeance, they supposed, would be satisfied by human blood only, which consequently flowed in streams as sacrifices to their gods.

These, and corresponding facts, sufficiently demonstrate, that when man in a state of nature, indulges in religious reflections, he is usually led to the sources of idolatry, from which he is afterwards withdrawn by the benign influence of revelation, and the power of reason. Under the controul of superstitious opinions, men are disposed to believe

that diseases are produced by supernatural causes, and are to be relieved or cured only by incantations and charms, or means equally extravagant. In a more advanced state of society, these sentiments are sometimes cherished by the ignorant or indolent, who have neither genius nor industry to examine the operations of nature.

The Mexicans and Peruvians, however, were not totally uninformed in their notions of diseases, or in their opinions of remedies. Montezuma transplanted into his garden specimens of all the medicinal plants produced in his empire ; and opportunities of studying their properties were afforded to his people. He distributed these plants when prescribed for, or desired by the sick ; thus fulfilling the highest obligations of a sovereign. These people introduced into the *Materia Medica* some powerful and valuable medicines, which were before unknown to the European physicians : jalap, guaiacum, sarsaparilla,

Peruvian bark, and ipecacuanha, were plants of their country, and used by them in the cure of diseases.

The Mexicans, notwithstanding the human sacrifices offered to their idols, said to amount to fifty thousand persons a year, in the whole extent of the empire, before its conquest by the Spaniards, were in every other respect, the most ingenious and civilised part of the original race of people found on this continent by the European adventurers. They were considerably advanced in many branches of science; in the knowledge of agriculture, and in some of the arts which ornament and add comfort to civilised life. Not being acquainted with letters or hieroglyphick characters, they represented material things by their proper figures. To save labour, paper, and colours, they contented themselves to represent part of an object, which was sufficient to make it understood, and which served them in place of writing. These paintings were only monuments or

aids to traditions, which private and public teachers were employed to explain more fully to their pupils. They made them learn speeches and discourses, which they could not express by the pencil. They put the events of their ancestors into verse, which they were taught to sing. These traditions dispelled the doubts, and explained the ambiguities which painting alone might have occasioned. By the assistance of these monuments, they perpetuated the memory of their heroes and virtuous men, their mythology, learning, laws, rights, and customs. For the like purposes, the Peruvians made use of threads of different colours, and differently knotted. Both the Mexicans and Peruvians had schools and colleges established in their empires, which afforded instruction in the various branches of knowledge they possessed.

Such was the state of learning and knowledge among the ancient inhabitants of this continent, who, whatever may be their origin, are only known to us as a distinct vari-

ety of the human race ; of copper-coloured complexions, remarkably erect, coarse black hair, harsh features, and scantily supplied with beard ; free and satisfied with their condition, obstinate in their tempers, painting their bodies, and regulating their proceedings by traditional customs, possessing a vigour of mind and body which appears to be unchanged by the various climates of the American continent ; but who, since the European establishments in the new world, seem to be sinking into a state of degradation, unworthy of their former rank and dignity ; yet proudly refusing to copy our manners, or receive our lessons of instruction.

The vast eastern continent of this globe, is chiefly inhabited by three distinct varieties of the human race. The greatest part of Asia was, perhaps, originally possessed by a peculiar race of men, distinguished by footy complexions, melancholic temperaments, strong black hair, dark brown eyes, grave in their dispositions,

haughty and covetous in their manners, and governed by opinions. The descendants of these people still occupy the more fertile territories of that delightful portion of this earth, and which is the more interesting from the belief, that it was the original country of man. In remote ages, the people inhabiting the banks of the Euphrates, the Tygris, the Indus, and the Ganges, the plains of Indostan, and the fertile fields of the ancient and wonderful empire of China, were placed in situations which led them to thought and reflection, and to unfold the powers of the understanding ; while the people in the north of Asia have at no time been far removed from a state of nature.

From the melancholic temperament of these Asiatic people, they have been always disposed to superstition, and strongly impressed with a sense of their own unworthiness and debasement. They have submitted in all ages to the most arbitrary forms of government, and to almost every

conqueror who approached their country ; yet they have the highest pretensions to fertile and lively imaginations ; and have certainly furnished the world with the most valuable lessons in moral wisdom. Their early efforts to promote the arts and sciences, have gained them high claims to consideration, and enabled them to diffuse their religious opinions and ingenious arts ; which flowed from them as from a fountain, to the rest of humankind.

It would be improper in me, gentlemen, to take up your time, by dwelling on the fertile genius of the original inhabitants of Asia, who, in all ages, have had a reverence for knowledge, and the useful arts. By general consent, they are allowed to be the inventors of letters and hieroglyphick characters, which have had very important effects in diffusing, promoting, and preserving knowledge among men. They were early inventors of arts and manufactures. They were engaged,

in very remote ages, in commerce and navigation. They were among the first improvers in astronomy; though from the nature of the climate and other causes, they had but rude notions of anatomy, and of the functions of the human body; yet they were attentive to the improvement of the healing art.

When the records of ancient knowledge were directed to be destroyed in China, those relating to medicine were excepted. So highly has medical skill been approved by the ancient people of Asia, that one of the precious things, which their gods are believed to have produced, was a learned physician. Their notions of philosophy were such, as were natural in a rude state of science. They believed that air, water, fire, and earth, were elementary principles; that life or spirit was a fifth principle, and an emanation from the Divinity; and they supposed, that by a union of these five principles, in different proportions, all living bodies were

produced ; and that by death and dissolution, all these principles reverted to their original source : errors, which the improvement in modern chemistry have exploded. From the fertile and lively imaginations of the people of Asia, they were particularly disposed to allegory, parable, and fable. Their ancient mythology has been considered as nothing more than historical truth in a poetical dress, or moral or metaphorical allegories. They were particularly disposed, in their seminaries of learning, to discourse on the vanity of all human enjoyments ; on the immortality of the soul ; its emanation from the Eternal mind ; its debasement and wanderings, and final union with its original source.

In very remote ages, particular classes of men, under various denominations, in different countries of Asia, were set apart as the depositaries and preservers of learning. Their duties were to cultivate their understandings by farther observation and study, and to transmit their knowledge, without

reserve, to their successors. These men, from their retired lives, reputed sanctity, and knowledge of bodies, would naturally be considered, in days of ignorance and superstition, as a superior order of beings—as holding an immediate intercourse with Heaven. These colleges of men were known in the eastern world, by the names of Chaldeans, Magi, Brahmins, and by other titles. The Chaldeans and Magi were supposed to be particularly versed in judicial astrology. The Brahmins were considered very learned in morals, and all those doctrines which relate to the mind. All these bodies of learned men were distinct from the rest of the people. Those who were initiated and instructed in their mysteries, were bound by the most sacred obligations to secrecy.

These Asiatic customs are still retained in some modern institutions. The genius of the different governments of Asia, and the particular interests and consequence of the learned men of those countries, were combined to

keep the great body of the people in the most profound ignorance. They were taught to believe, that it would be offensive to Heaven for them to enquire into the mysteries of nature ; and that they could not taste of knowledge, without involving themselves in misery. The ignorant multitude were persuaded, and did believe, that these colleges of learned men held an immediate intercourse with their Deities, and were the means of conveying the Divine will and pleasure to mortals here below. No schools or colleges were ever established in Asia by the native inhabitants, to diffuse knowledge among the people. It was reserved for the British nation to found them at Calcutta.

Though the people of Asia were early inventors of the arts and improvers of knowledge, they have no claim to most of the great discoveries and improvements in science. Perhaps there, as in Europe, communities of men have totally disappeared, who once were ornaments of the human character. The Sanscrit lan-

guage and records, like those of the Romans, bear strong testimony in favour of a people of superior worth, who once resided in India, but who now no longer exist.

The negro people are the original inhabitants of Africa. Their descendants occupy, at the present day, almost the whole of that quarter of the world. They are characterised by black complexions, phlegmatic temperaments, black and frizly hair, soft and silky skins, flat noses, thick lips ; they are crafty, indolent, careless, and in their actions governed by caprice..

Many of these people have been in slavery for nearly two centuries in most of these states ; and where the race has been continued pure, they have undergone no change in their complexions or hair.

Though Africa is not subject to the piercing colds, which are experienced in the northern parts of Asia and America, it has regions of deserts and burning sands, equally inhospitable to the comfort of man,

and unfriendly to those genial causes, which lead to the evolution of the powers of the mind, the invention of arts, and the improvement of knowledge.

The people of Africa who, in remote ages, were established on the rich and fertile banks of the Nile, soon became lovers of knowledge and improvers of the arts. Egypt has been emphatically called the Mother of the arts. There can be no doubt but that country has fair and honourable pretensions to be considered among the most early seats of science.

The monuments of antiquity and specimens of the arts, which are still found in India, prove the early connection between that country and Egypt. Apulius states, that according to the opinion of the ancients, the Ethiopians received the first light of the sun. Budah, one of the Indian divinities, is represented as black, with frizly hair. He, perhaps, was a learned Ethiopian, who in early ages travelled into India. We have the evidence

of ancient historians, especially of Herodotus, to state, that the ancient Egyptians were of the negro race. The negro features are evidently marked in all the cases, which are found to contain ancient Egyptian mummies. The word Egypt implies, in the original Greek, the country of black men, who, we know from the sacred writings, were not, in former times, held in degradation. It was among these people, that the great Jewish lawgiver received that extraordinary fund of knowledge which he manifestly possessed. Many of the learned of our own times have cherished a belief, that there may be some curious remains of the arts and sciences in Abyssinia, Ethiopia, and the interior parts of Africa, which they have anxiously wished to ascertain.

Though the coloured people of Asia and of Africa, are undoubtedly races of men with powers of mind in many respects inferior to our Indians and our own variety of the human species, they were certain-

ly the fathers of science, and to us the first instructors in knowledge.

The most extraordinary and wonderful variety of man is our own or the white race. What was our origin, whence we came, or where the original country of our ancestors, are hid in obscurity. We are known in Natural History as the European *man*, distinguished by fair complexions, sanguine temperaments, hair of various shades of brown, eyes mostly blue, acute in judgment, of quick invention, and governed by laws; active, enterprising, ingenious, and at this period of time, without presumption, the most intelligent of human kind.*

That our race was not of remote antiquity, may be probable. The account in the sacred writings of the cre-

* Variations of colour are not the only anatomical differences observable between the several people who inhabit this globe. To state them all, would swell this note into a dissertation. The facial angle is more acute in the African than in the European by ten or fifteen degrees. The chin of the African is not so prominent as that of the European; but the teeth of the former project more than those of the latter. There is a remarkable difference too in the bones of the leg.

ation of Adam is supposed, by most of the learned, to refer to the Indian race of men. Homer describes the ancient heroes of Greece, as an order of men, not very different in their manners and habits from the warriors and head men of our five nations of Indians. The description of the ancient Germans by Tacitus, in his time, also corresponds with that of the Indians of these states ; but different from them, our German ancestors paid adoration to the sun and moon, and to Tuifco, Woden, Thor, Friga, and Saturn or Seater, who having been great statesmen and warriors, gained the veneration of their countrymen. We retain the names of these deities in the days of the week. In the western parts of Europe, according to the conqueror, Julius Cæsar, and other historians, there were colleges of men among the ancient Gauls, and Britons by the name of Druids, who were famed for their supposed learning and knowledge, who offered up human sacrifices to their gods, and who for these acts

of barbarism, were ordered to be destroyed by the Roman emperors.

The history of our variety of the human race is interesting and extraordinary. In ancient times they possessed almost all Europe, and from what we know, some of them wandered into Asia, making part of those hordes known by the name of Huns and Tartars. They inhabited, at times, parts of Asia Minor, Persia and Arabia. In this wandering state communities may have been formed by a mixture of the different races of men, but who are not sufficiently important to merit much notice.

The Greeks, under Alexander the Great, invaded and conquered parts of Africa and Asia ; at an after-period the Romans did the same. In the middle ages, hordes of white barbarians from the north of Europe and Asia, overturned the Roman power, enervated by the loss of the republican form of government. In modern times, people from the west of Europe

conquered parts of Asia Minor. Our white race have in America overturned the empires of Mexico and Peru, possessed themselves of the territories of these United States, and the northern parts of this continent. In India we have also appeared as the lords of this world, and subjected to the dominion of our race millions of the ancient inhabitants of that country. As tribes, or distinct nations, we have been long contending in sanguinary wars with each other, and have been led, by various causes, to be the most exalted of human kind.

In the genial climates of Greece and of Italy, the arts and sciences were first cherished among the people of our race. If words and sounds, in the construction of language, may be allowed to correspond with dignity and elevation of mind, then we must conclude that the Greeks and the Romans were, from their origin, a great and majestic people. The admirable structure of their languages, the exquisite refinement and perfection of each, is sufficiently known

to all who have paid any attention to philology. These people were great in all that relates to man, and wonderfully excelled in the elegant and liberal arts. The exquisite remains of Grecian sculpture, both in gems and marble, no modern tool equals. The Grecian architecture we imitate only at a servile distance. In painting, and in music, and in all the productions of human genius, the Greeks excelled. Greece was the country of Homer, of Hippocrates, of Plato, Socrates and Aristotle, and of other great characters, who have contributed to enlighten the world, and diffuse a desire of improvement among men.

The Romans excelled most in what related to the art of war, and the government of man; like the Greeks, they were lovers of knowledge, and the useful arts. Their classical productions instruct and delight us in our youth, and gain our respect in maturer age. Our alphabet and letters point out our obligations to Roman genius. In our schools, academies, and colleges are

retained, as models for instruction, their productions of genius and taste. While the race of Roman men have departed this world, refusing to exist when it was denied them to live in glory ; they still retain their empire over us by the monuments of their greatness. We dare not depart from their chaste examples of composition, without running into exuberance or wild bombast. Our sages of the law must still resort to Roman jurisprudence, as the fountain of reason and just decision. Celsus instructs us in the healing art, and to the honour of the medical profession, his book is the most elegant example of latinity, which has escaped the destroying hand of inconsiderate man.

If we contemplate the age in which the human character appeared most exalted, we must fix on the flourishing periods of the republics of Greece and of Rome; nor can we pay a higher compliment to their greatness, than by reflecting that, when their genius and learning were suppressed, the

world was overwhelmed by ignorance and superstition, and mankind reverted to their ancient barbarism, from which they were withdrawn only by the restoration of knowledge.

During the middle ages however, it was the will of Providence, that the monuments of human greatness, produced by the genius of Greece and Rome, should not be totally destroyed. The successors of Mahomet established colleges in Asia, Africa, and the south of Europe.

In the 13th and 14th centuries the republics of Italy were engaged in lucrative commerce with Africa and Asia, and the north of Europe. The citizens soon were placed in situations which led to the restoration of learning : this was powerfully effected by the family of the Medici, who were originally practitioners of the healing art, and from contemplating man and nature, were possessed of superior understandings, and more enlightened minds. They generously employed their wealth and power to

exalt the human character, and restore a love of knowledge and the useful arts. The clouds of ignorance and superstition began to be dispelled, and men arose in the Italian republics, who may truly be said to be ornaments to our species.

Copernicus came from the north of Germany, but studied in the schools of Italy. With that independence of spirit, and strength of mind, which have so often characterised his countrymen, he made those sublime discoveries in astronomy, which perpetuated his name, and which were afterwards so fully established by the learned *Galileo*.

Genoa produced the most extraordinary and exalted man who perhaps ever appeared in any age. In the humble occupation of a sailor, he contemplated the starry heavens, the revolution of the heavenly bodies, the form and structure of this earth, and possessing superior knowledge on all these subjects, by the power of reason he entertained the sublime idea of the existence of a new

world, and had fortitude and talents to effect its discovery. This was Christopher Columbus, the first man of our race, who landed on the western part of this earth. The wonderful effects which this sublime discovery has produced on society, on the arts and sciences, are too extensive for me to dwell on ; but we cannot reflect on the character of Columbus, his sublime and comprehensive mind, without being led to believe him a person inspired with sagacity and fortitude, more than human, in order to accomplish a design far beyond the ideas and conceptions of men.

The establishment of the university of Paris had important effects in diffusing knowledge in France and the western parts of Europe. The people of France, from the extensive opportunities of instruction afforded them, rose to be the most intelligent and polished portion of the human race, and have, among the most dreadful of human convulsions, retained a love of knowledge and the arts.

The Batavian people were the friends, and from their bravery and virtue, the allies of the ancient Romans. On the restoration of learning, they adopted and introduced the Latin as a living language in their schools, and cherished a spirit of enquiry among the people. Coster of Haerlem discovered the art of printing with wood ; this art was afterwards farther improved in Germany, by the substitution of metal, and the invention of types. The republican form of government, which became established in Holland, gave ample protection to the art of printing, and contributed very much to diffuse a spirit of enquiry, and a love of knowledge among the nations of Europe.

The insular situation of Great Britain, has enabled her to retain more of the principles of rational and legal liberty, than is enjoyed by any other nation in Europe. The richness of the country placed many of the inhabitants in opulence. Both these causes have combined to encourage the pro-

motion of useful knowledge, and of the elegant and ingenious arts. It was here that lord Bacon first instructed men in the true method of obtaining knowledge, by collecting general facts which occur in the various arts of common life, and deducing from them certain fixed laws and principles, thus giving them the character of science. It was here that Dr. Harvey, by the force of reason, first demonstrated the circulation of the blood. His proofs and arguments are so fully stated in his elegant Latin treatise on this subject, as to require no farther illustration since his time. Mr. Locke here first analysed the powers of the understanding, and Newton explained the most sublime secrets of nature. The universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the universities of Edinburgh and other cities in Scotland, the colleges of physicians of London and Edinburgh, and the public and private schools supported by that enlightened people, have contributed largely to the pro-

motion of knowledge, and to elevate the character and dignity of man.

The white people of these United States have always manifested a love for learning, equal to their brethren in other parts of the world. Some European writers have supposed that we have degenerated from the vigour of mind possessed by our forefathers. But the Chief who presides over these states with so much wisdom, moderation and justice, has, in his philosophical tracts, vindicated the character of his countrymen with all that zeal, with which he is accustomed to support their rights and interests. The inventive and active genius of our people has appeared in navigation, and many of the mechanic arts. In that kind of philosophy which applies immediately to the convenience and comfort of man, some of our citizens have risen to the highest rank. In painting, which of all arts requires the greatest power of genius, they have acquired considerable celebrity. In the science of politics they stand unrivalled,

exhibiting to the world an illustrious instance of a numerous and widely scattered people, *self-governed*, and advancing with unexampled rapidity in national wealth and national happiness.

We thus see, that in all the varieties of man there is implanted, by the hands of the Creator, a capacity for instruction. This capacity, usually termed genius, varies materially, not only in the same race, but in the different races themselves ; in all, it admits of infinite improvement by cultivation. Affiduity will, to a certain extent, supply the want of genius, but genius unconnected with industry is of little value ; both must be combined to form the man of science.

To facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, men, illustrious for their learning, are in all countries collected into colleges, for communicating instruction ; and when the sacred duties of these institutions have been duly attended to, great advantages have been derived from them to the com-

munity ; and honour and renown at the same time conferred on such benefactors of mankind as have been faithfully and industriously employed in diffusing knowledge.

After the conclusion of the war, which established the independence of these States, the Legislature of this state manifested great zeal for the promotion of learning ; satisfied that without knowledge the civil and political institution, established by the blood of the country, would not long remain ; and that rational and legal liberty can be supported in that country only, where the people are far advanced in the principles of morals and of science.

For these purposes the Legislature established a university in this state, and has endowed with great liberality the schools, academies, and colleges, under the inspection and superintendence of the Regents. These schools and colleges have been more especially devoted, hitherto, to ordinary instruction, and that classical information which is obtained by a knowledge of the Greek

and Roman writers. This institution, which is the third college belonging to the university, is established for the sublime and more exalted branches of knowledge. The rudiments of education and classical learning will not be taught here. The objects of study will be nature, and whatever relates to man.

The objects of instruction in this College will, therefore, be extensive, and the patrons of this institution will be unremitting in their endeavours to make it equal, in usefulness, to the most distinguished universities of Europe. The professors and lecturers will state to you in their lectures, the different objects of study connected with their courses of instruction, and give such directions as may be most interesting to students to aid them in the prosecution of their various studies.

In this institution, the trustees have not thought proper to make any laws for the government of its students : they hope none will ever be necessary ; but that every gen-

tleman attached to the College, will always be directed in his conduct and behaviour by the principles of honour and good manners. On their part, the trustees cherish sanguine expectations, that the labours of the professors and teachers will obtain the affection of the students, of their patrons and friends.

Confiding in the constituted authorities of the state, and in their fellow-citizens for protection and support, the trustees, professors, and teachers of this College, will exert their humble efforts to fulfil their respective duties to the public with assiduity, zeal, and attention.





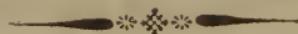
BYE-LAWS

OF THE

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

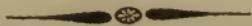
IN THE

CITY OF NEW-YORK.



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BYE-LAWS
OF THE
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS
IN THE
CITY OF NEW-YORK.



WHEREAS it is granted and declared in and by the charter for establishing a College of Physicians and Surgeons in the city of New-York, that the trustees or members may enact such bye-laws, rules, and regulations, relative to the affairs, concerns, and property of the said college, and relative to the duties of their president, vice-president, register, treasurer, censors, and other members, as they may think fit and proper; and whereas it is expedient that such bye-laws, rules, and regulations be enacted:

Therefore, be it ordained by the College of Physicians and Surgeons, established in the city of New-York, And it is ordained by the authority of the same, That the charter and bye-laws of the said College of Physicians and Surgeons shall be engrossed in a book, proper for the purpose, together with the following declaration, which shall be subscribed by the president, vice-president, register, treasurer, censors, and all other trustees of the said college, who shall or may be resident in the city of New-York.

DECLARATION.

WE, the members and trustees of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in the city of New-York, do, each of us, solemnly declare, that according to the best of our skill and knowledge, we will, severally, discharge the several trusts and powers vested in us respectively; that we will diligently maintain the honour and welfare of the said College; and in all things which shall in any sort concern our respective duties, we

will act faithfully and honestly ; that we will observe and be obedient to the statutes, bye-laws, and ordinances, enacted for the said College ; and will, to the utmost of our power, endeavour to promote the reputation, honour, and dignity thereof.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That every member of this college shall observe order and decorum at all the meetings of the said College, and pay proper respect to the president and other officers of the said College, and to their fellow members ; and every member who shall be guilty of breach of order or decorum in the said college, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding fifty dollars for every offence, according as a majority of members present at such meeting shall direct.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That every member nominated and appointed a member of this College, and having accepted such trust, who shall at any time use expressions of disrespect concerning the said institution, or shall

endeavour to injure the honour, reputation, or usefulness thereof, shall, upon conviction before the College, at any of their anniversary or quarterly meetings, be subject to a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That it shall be the duty of every member of the said College to support the honour and dignity of the medical profession, and to execute the duties thereof to the best of his skill and knowledge, with justice and propriety ; and every such member and trustee, who shall be convicted of imposing on the public by improper medical advertisements, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding fifty dollars for every offence, and may be represented to the Regents as unworthy of holding a place in the said College.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That it shall be lawful for this College, at any time, to represent to the Regents of the university, the improper

conduct of any member or trustee of the said College, to the end that the Regents be enabled to judge of the expediency of displacing any such member so represented.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That every member of the said College, resident in the city of New-York, shall pay to the treasurer of the said College, yearly, ten dollars, towards defraying the expenses of the said College, until a sufficient fund shall be otherwise provided for that purpose.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the order of transacting business at the meetings of the said College, shall be in manner and form as follows, viz.

1. The president or presiding officer of the said College, may declare the same constituted, whenever a quorum is formed according to charter.

2. The minutes of the last meeting shall be read by the register, and if no member present object to the same, the minutes shall be considered as approved.

3. The president or presiding officer, or any trustee of the said College, may introduce any proposition relative to the concerns of the said College, and have the same disposed of according to the pleasure of a majority of the members present at any such meeting.

4. Every motion made or resolution offered by any member and trustee of this College, shall be committed to writing by such member, and presented to the president or presiding officer, previous to its being laid before the College.

5. A majority of the members and trustees of the College present at any meeting, may direct an adjournment whenever it shall be deemed proper.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That all the members and trustees of the said College, shall take their places whenever the president or presiding officer shall declare the College constituted ; and whenever a member shall speak, he shall stand up and address himself to the chair ; and whenever any two or more members offer

to speak at the same time, the president or presiding officer shall determine the priority in speaking.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the president of the said College shall preside at the meetings, and shall preserve order and decorum in the same; he shall perform the duties of his office as may be directed by charter, and the ordinances and bye-laws enacted for the said College; he shall nominate and appoint all committees for transacting the business of said College, unless otherwise directed by a special resolution of a majority of the members present; he shall take the sense of the College on any motion made and seconded; he shall have a casting vote in all transactions where the votes of the members are equally divided, and shall deliver the decisions of the College.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the president, vice-president, register, and treasurer of the said College, shall each of them have all the rights of a

censor of the said College, and shall attend the meetings of said censors ; that at the meeting of the censors, the senior censor on the list present shall preside ; and the said censors are authorised to appoint one of their members their secretary, whose duty it shall be to keep a faithful record of all the proceedings of said censors, and shall, from time to time, lay the same before the members of the said College at their respective meetings.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That it shall be the duty of the said censors to carry into full effect all the ordinances, bye-laws, and resolutions of the said College ; that they shall pay due attention towards establishing and preserving for the said College, an anatomical museum, chemical laboratory, and botanic garden ; they shall also provide convenient lecture-rooms for the professors and lecturers of the said College ; and that they shall form and preserve a library for the use of said College ; they shall prepare a report in writing,

respecting all matters and things relating to the said College, to be submitted to the members and trustees, at the first meeting in January in every year; and that five censors shall form a quorum to transact business.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That until the Regents of the University shall have passed ordinances for regulating the conduct of the professors and students of the said College, the president of said College, together with the professors appointed for the said College, and lecturers chosen by said College, shall constitute and form a SENATUS ACADEMICUS; and the said Senatus Academicus is hereby authorised to make such rules and regulations, as may be fit and proper, as well for themselves as the professors, lecturers, and students of the said College; and three members of the said Senatus Academicus shall form a board to transact business.

A.

R E P O R T

OF THE

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

IN THE

CITY OF NEW-YORK,

TO THE

REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

1808.

TO THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
THE STATE OF NEW-YORK.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons,
in the city of New-York, in obedience to
the injunction of the Charter by which
they are constituted, beg leave respectfully
to present the following Report.

Agreeably to the powers vested in the trustees and members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, named and comprehended in the charter of incorporation, they convened at the time and place appointed, and elected, by a majority of votes, NICHOLAS ROMAYNE President, SAMUEL L. MITCHILL Vice-President, ARCHIBALD BRUCE Register, ABRAHAM BROWER Treasurer, and EDWARD MILLER, DAVID HOSACK, ALEXANDER SHEDDEN, WILLIAM LIVINGSTON, FELIX PASCALIS, JOSHUA E. R. BIRCH, WILLIAM WHEELER, JOHN D. GILLESPIE, HENRY

VAN SOLINGEN, WILLIAM J. M'NEVEN,
JAMES G. GRAHAM, BENJAMIN DE WITT,
Censors of the said College. These gentle-
men severally accepted their respective
offices, and entered upon the duties of them
with zeal and activity.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons
being thus legally organized, proceeded,
after due deliberation, to enact such bye-
laws as were considered necessary for the
government of the institution, and such
as in their opinion would contribute to its
usefulness and respectability. Copies of
them are herewith presented, and respect-
fully submitted to the Regents.

For the purpose of conducting with
promptness and facility the various minute
details of the College, which could not con-
veniently be attended to by a large public
body, they have deemed it expedient, ac-
cording to the usage of similar institutions
in Europe, to organize a SENATUS AKA-
DEMICUS, consisting of the professors of
the University, the president, vice-president,

register, treasurer, and lecturers of the College, who are authorised to make such arrangements as may be found necessary to execute the system of education established in the College, as well as for the regulation and government of the professors, lecturers, and students. From the assiduity and attention of this body to the interests of the institution, the College anticipate much advantage; and flatter themselves the establishment will meet with the approbation of the Regents.

To provide as early as possible for the necessary instruction intended to be given in all the most essential branches of medical science, the College found it indispensable to exercise the power delegated to them by the Regents, of appointing lecturers in the departments which were unprovided with professors. They accordingly appointed Dr. *Nicholas Romayne* and Dr. *John ^{go}Austine Smith*, Lecturers on Anatomy; Dr. *Benjamin De Witt*, Lecturer on Chemistry; Dr. *David Hosack*, Lecturer on Mid-

wifery and Surgery, and Dr. *Edward Miller*, Lecturer on Clinical Medicine. Regular lectures are accordingly given on these branches, as well as on those assigned by the Regents to the several professors.

One of the important advantages of a Medical College established in a large city, is the facility afforded to students of attending great numbers of sick persons, under proper instructors, in the hospitals. The College, therefore, considered it of much consequence to the advancement of medical knowledge, to furnish the students with the best opportunities for clinical observation which this city affords ; and they mention with pleasure, that the Governors of the New-York hospital have very liberally seconded their views on this subject ; so that the students of the College have the privilege of daily visiting a large number of patients ; of receiving practical instruction at the bed-side of the sick, on the most important cases of disease, from the clinical lecturer, and of using the valuable li-

brary belonging to that establishment. The students of the College have also the privilege of attending the patients in the alms-house, and the clinical lectures on the cases occurring there, by Dr. M'Neven, one of the members of the College.

Early efforts were made to provide for the College a chemical apparatus, by procuring such articles as could be obtained in the United States. Measures have also been taken to purchase in Europe every thing that may hereafter be requisite for the most complete course of chemical experiments ; and the College will soon be furnished with an apparatus and laboratory, for the lectures on this department of science, equal to those found in the universities of foreign countries.

Every exertion has also been made to establish an anatomical museum, as well by procuring and making preparations here, as by obtaining them from abroad ; and the College entertain the most sanguine expec-

tations that they will be enabled, in the course of the present year, to form a collection of anatomical preparations, that will be highly interesting and useful to students.

The Botanic Garden, in the suburbs of this city, founded some years ago by the Professor of botany and materia medica, is devoted to the use of this College, and furnishes to students ample advantages for the study of that branch of medical knowledge. A catalogue of the numerous plants contained in this garden, accompanies this report.

The valuable cabinet of mineralogy, belonging to the Professor of that branch of science, is also devoted to the use of the College. This cabinet, although at present rich in itself, and perhaps equal to any in America, is, notwithstanding, daily increasing by contributions from different parts of this continent. On this interesting branch of natural knowledge, the students of the College have an opportunity of being amply

instructed ; and this deserves the more attention as the professorship of Mineralogy, in this College, is the first established on this side of the Atlantic.

In addition to these advantages for the acquisition of natural knowledge, as connected with medicine, the College contemplate also the establishment of a national museum of natural history, including as well specimens of American mineralogy, as preparations in zoology and botany, to be preserved and arranged in a methodical manner. And, connected with these, will also, of course, be found the products of other countries, for the purpose of enlarging the instruction of the student. This cabinet will furnish the professor of natural history with the means of giving the most extensive information to the students of that department of knowledge. Some progress has already been made in this undertaking, by Professor Mitchill's devoting to this use his own very valuable collection, and by donations from other

members of the College. The example of these gentlemen, it is to be hoped, will be followed by others in the different states, from whom useful additions may occasionally be expected.

The College are also impressed with the great advantages to be derived from the establishment of a medical library, that shall contain all the rare and valuable works of antiquity, as well as of modern times ; and although the students of the College have, at all times, access to the extensive library attached to the New-York Hospital, the utility of a respectable library, immediately belonging to the College, cannot be doubted. The College have accordingly laid the foundation for such an establishment by commencing the collection of books. They have purchased some scarce and costly works, and have received donations from members and others for this important object.

Having thus made as ample provision as circumstances would permit, to afford the

best course of instruction to their students, the College conceived it would contribute materially to the promotion of medical science, to establish a correspondence and connection between their institution and the medical societies of every county in the state. They accordingly entered into such correspondence, and invited the county societies to recommend a student of medicine, from each county, to receive gratuitously the instruction furnished by the College. As this measure, it is hoped, will greatly diffuse the benefit of regular medical information throughout the state, and essentially add to the respectability and dignity of the profession, the College flatter themselves it will meet the approbation of the Regents of the University. The views of the Senatus Academicus on this subject, with which we perfectly concur, are more particularly specified in the following circular, transmitted by them to the medical societies.

*Circular Letter from the Senatus Academicus of
the New-York College of Physicians and
Surgeons, to the Presidents of the several
incorporated Medical Societies throughout
the State.*

To the President of the Medical Society
of the county of

SIR,

The Regents of the University of this State, who are invested with the superintendence of education and literary institutions, have deemed it expedient, in their enlightened and paternal solicitude for the advancement of science, to establish a College of Physicians and Surgeons in the city of New-York, for the sole purpose of promoting medical improvement and instruction. With the view of giving all the requisite information on this subject, a copy of the charter is herewith transmitted.

As it is the principal object of this new institution to assist the progress of medical science in every part of the state of New-

York, the members of it consider the cultivation of correspondence and intimate connection with the Medical Society of the state, and the Medical Societies of the several counties, as one of their most important duties. Accordingly, at the last meeting of the College, it was given in charge to us, the undersigned, constituting the Academic Senate of that body, to make known to the respective Medical Societies in the State, the course of proceedings under the Charter, and the plan which is adopted for the regulation of their future conduct.

Under the direction and patronage of the Regents, the College of Physicians and Surgeons have instituted a School of Physic, which it will be their unremitting endeavour to render equal in extent, comprehensiveness, and accuracy of instruction, to the most distinguished Universities of Europe. All the departments of medical science, and such auxiliary branches of knowledge as are deemed essential to the liberal

practice of physic, will be carefully taught in this School. The Professors have been appointed by the Regents of the University; and the College, in conformity to the Charter, have appointed, in the recess of the Board of Regents, Lecturers in all the branches of instruction which remained unprovided with Professors.

In order more fully to carry into effect the liberal and patriotic design of the Regents, and to diffuse the advantages of medical instruction throughout the most distant parts of the state, we beg leave to propose, that the President of each and every Medical Society in the state shall, respectively, designate one student of physic, of good moral character, of promising talents, and of diligent habits, and recommend him to the President of our College of Physicians and Surgeons; and that every student so recommended, shall be admitted to attend the lectures of the College free of expence. Such student of physic may also rely upon all the patronage and protection

in the prosecution of his studies, and in his future establishment in business, which it may be in the power of the College to grant. The lateness of the season, and the impossibility of consulting you and the members of your Society, on the most eligible mode of procedure, induce us to request the Presidents of the several Societies to undertake, for the present year, the burden of this selection. Before the return of another year, we entertain sanguine expectations that the Legislature and the Regents will form an arrangement for this object, which we trust will meet the approbation both of the presiding officers and members of the respective Medical Societies.

The advantages which the College are enabled to offer to students of physic, towards facilitating and completing their system of instruction, will be of the most ample and distinguished kind. An extensive anatomical museum and chemical apparatus have been for some time in a train of preparation : the cabinet of mineralogy, be-

longing to the Professor, is unequalled in the United States ; and an extensive botanic garden, founded by the Professor of that branch, and already advanced to a high degree of improvement, contains a rich collection of exotic as well as indigenous plants. We have also the satisfaction to inform you, that Dr. John Austin Smith, of the University of William and Mary of Virginia, and Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of London, has agreed to accept the appointment of Adjunct Lecturer on Anatomy, and will be prepared to commence his Lectures at the opening of the College.

To render the plan of instruction as convenient as possible, a large and commodious building is procured in a central part of the city, where apartments will be fitted up suitable to every branch of teaching, and provided with whatever may be requisite to answer the views both of the Lecturers and Students.

The Lectures in all the several branches

will commence early in November next; and it is therefore expedient that all Students who intend to join our classes, should present themselves in this city, in the last week of October, for the purpose of making the necessary preparations for entering on their studies.

NICHOLAS ROMAYNE, M. D. President,
and Lecturer on Anatomy.

SAMUEL L. MITCHILL, M. D. Vice-President,
and Professor of Chemistry.

EDWARD MILLER, M. D. Professor of
the Practice of Physic, and Lecturer
on Clinical Medicine.

DAVID HOSACK, M. D. Professor of Ma-
teria Medica and Botany, and Lec-
turer on Surgery and Midwifery.

ARCHIBALD BRUCE, M. D. Professor of
Mineralogy.

B. DE WITT, M. D. Professor of the In-
stitutes of Medicine, and Lecturer
on Chemistry.

Notwithstanding the advanced period of the year when this measure was adopted, the College are pleased to find that many of the Societies embraced the proposition; and that a respectable number of young gentlemen, from the interior of the state, are now attending the lectures. These, when they return to their respective homes, we trust, will diffuse a taste for science in medicine, and excite a laudable emulation in their brethren of the profession; and thus contribute to rescue the practice of medicine generally from the hands of ignorance and imposture. The names and number of the students from the several counties of this state, as well as from the neighbouring states, are detailed particularly in the supplemental report accompanying this, to which we beg leave to refer the Regents.

The College cannot conclude this report, without submitting to the wisdom of your Board the following considerations.

Scientific establishments, like this erected

by the Regents of the University for the advancement of medical learning, may justly be considered among the most important and venerable of all public institutions. The advantages of them have been felt and acknowledged in all civilized nations ; and, accordingly, the number, the endowments, and the celebrity of them, have always kept pace with the progress of literature and refinement. The example and experience of all the more enlightened parts of Europe, amply confirm this assertion. Such establishments produce their beneficial effects at all times, under all circumstances, in every condition of society, and under every form and revolution of government. The discoveries they produce, and the knowledge they unfold and diffuse, are calculated in an eminent degree to exalt and advance national dignity. As they are respected in all countries where learning is cultivated, they serve, likewise, in some of their consequences, to abate the animosity of national disputes, and to soften the vindictive

passions of war. By cherishing a spirit of universal benevolence and improvement, and by awakening sentiments favourable to a liberal and beneficial intercourse of nations, they tend, in no small degree, to consolidate the interests, and to consecrate the fraternity of the great family of mankind. It is in such seminaries of science, fostered by every wise and provident legislature, that distinguished talents will be excited and displayed ; that they will be associated for mutual assistance and emulation ; that they will find the support and encouragement necessary for the prosecution of their labours ; that their combined exertions will be directed to the purposes of practical utility ; and that they will thereby be enabled to lay the foundation of extensive, solid, and lasting reputation, in the communities by which they are founded.

If medical science were considered merely in its application to the practice of the profession, it might, perhaps, be properly committed by government to the emulation of

individuals. But the study of medicine, in its present state, embraces almost the whole study and knowledge of nature. It is a science made up of a great number of sciences. In proof of this, it is sufficient to mention its radical dependence upon Chemistry and Natural History. On the cultivation of these branches of knowledge, a great proportion of all the arts most conducive to the subsistence, comfort, and embellishment of human nature, must constantly rely for their principles, elucidation, and improvement. The means of accelerating our national progress, the development and application of the immense resources which still lie hid in our country, and many of the most important requisites for public defence and national independence, can only be drawn forth and brought to maturity, under the guidance of these practical sciences.

Instead of expensive establishments for the cultivation of these objects exclusively, which are every where found in the

European world, the immature state of science at present in the United States invites us to connect such branches with a medical seminary ; as the most frugal and simple mode of prosecuting them with immediate effect ; and as the best practicable plan of combining, at one point, the greatest amount of instruction and benefit to the community.

While it is admitted that the city of New-York will derive much benefit from such a liberal establishment as we here contemplate, there can be no doubt that every part of the country, even the most distant counties will enjoy a still greater comparative share of advantage. Many of these advantages are already, and long have been, possessed by our capital ; but the distribution of them to the remote portions of the state, will form a material part of the improvement.

In order to effect the interesting purposes of such an establishment, the aid of the government is indispensably necessary. In support of the common academic and collegiate institutions, much may be often ac-

complished by the enterprize of individuals, and the exertions of voluntary associations. For seats of learning like these, places of retirement, of convenient accommodation, and cheap subsistence, may be properly selected. But, for a medical seminary, the choice of situation is unavoidably confined to populous cities ; as in them alone can be found that centre of intelligence and combination of talents, number of books, facilities for pursuing anatomical and chemical enquiries, and finally the opportunities of attending the practice of hospitals, which are essential to a course of medical education. The expence, however, of founding such institutions in populous cities is so burdensome as to place it beyond the reach of individual, or even of associated exertion.

In several of our sister states, the importance of these institutions is beginning to be deeply felt ; and endowments for their establishment are bestowed by their Legislatures, with a liberal hand. Massachusetts and South-Carolina, Maryland and Connecticut, may be cited as examples of the

recent display of this munificent spirit. If these states have exhibited a liberality so splendid and exemplary, what may not be expected from the state of New-York ?

The benefits resulting from this patronage of science, will form a solid addition to the existing importance and resources of our state. And, with the aid of such benefits, she will be enabled more speedily to realize the high destinies, to which, under the auspices of a wise and parental government, she cannot fail to be ultimately conducted by her influential and imposing situation in the Union, by her extensive and fertile territory, by her growing populousness, by the enterprize of her citizens, and by all the advantages of her expanding metropolis and unrivalled emporium.

Done in the College of Physicians and

Surgeons, in the city of New-York.

L. S. Witness the Seal of the College. Testified by the Register, this twenty-seventh day of January, A. D. 1808.

ARCHIBALD BRUCE, *Register.*

Med. Hist.

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